

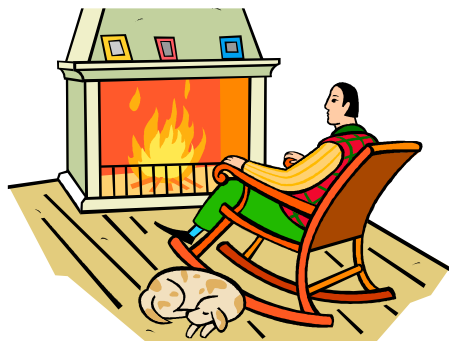
The Setting

Ahhh...the warmth of a fire in a wood stove or fireplace. For some, this means a source of heat for a home. For others, the “warmth” given off by a wood fire is in the ambiance of the fire itself — the crackle, the glow, a sense of comfort on a cold winter’s day.

Whether used for heating, ambiance, or both, wood stoves, fireplaces, and other wood burning appliances are common in Idaho. Unfortunately, the air pollution created from improper wood burning can be common as well.

This doesn’t have to be the case. The type of stove or fireplace you have, the type of wood you burn, and the way you burn all affect how your fire impacts air quality.

Burning clean has many benefits. Not only do you lessen your impact on air quality and its impact on health, but burning clean uses less wood and produces more heat (both of which save you money), is safer than improper burning, and helps keep smoke from recirculating into your house.



I’m concerned about smoke from my neighbor’s fire. What should I do?

If you’re concerned about smoke from someone else’s fire, contact your nearest DEQ regional office for assistance (see reverse).

For More Information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
Air Quality Division: (208) 373-0502

Boise Regional Office
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Coeur d’Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Idaho Falls Regional Office
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Lewiston Regional Office
1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Pocatello Regional Office
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Twin Falls Regional Office
1363 Fillmore Street
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

Log on:

Air Quality Index
www.deq.idaho.gov/air/data_reports/monitoring/aqi.cfm

Daily Air Quality Reports
www.deq.idaho.gov/air/aqindex.cfm

Wood Stoves
www.deq.idaho.gov/air/prog_issues/burning/woodstoves.cfm

Wood Stove Replacements and the Idaho Tax Deduction
www.deq.idaho.gov/air/prog_issues/burning/woodstoves.cfm#Tax



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Burn Clean, Burn Smart



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Environmental Quality
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www.deq.idaho.gov

The Stove

For hundreds of years, home wood heating technology changed very little. Then, in the 1980s, air pollution problems across the country were linked to smoke from wood stoves. Soon, wood stove manufacturers were required to design cleaner stoves.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires manufacturers of wood stoves to produce clean-burning stoves. Wood stoves built after July 1, 1988, must be certified by EPA and cannot produce smoke-related pollutants beyond certain limits.



Idaho offers taxpayers a tax deduction when purchasing new wood stoves, pellet stoves, or natural gas or propane heating units for residences to replace old, uncertified wood stoves.

In addition, compared to old wood stoves, newer wood stoves:

- Use two-thirds less wood.
- Circulate heat more efficiently, so it stays in your home instead of going out the flue.
- Deposit less creosote buildup in chimneys, meaning less cleaning for you!
- Emit 50% to 60% less air pollution.

The Fire

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality urges people who choose to burn wood to burn clean and burn smart. Follow these simple guidelines to reduce smoke and creosote buildup:

- ***Burn the right materials.*** Only burn clean and dry wood, pellets, or manufactured logs. Do not burn trash, plastics, or treated materials.
- ***Make sure your wood is dry.*** Dry wood creates hotter fires and less smoke.
- ***Burn smaller, hotter fires.*** When starting a fire, keep the damper and other air inlets open for 20 to 30 minutes to allow in enough air to fuel a hot fire. Establish a bed of coals before adding large logs.
- ***Allow enough room for air to circulate.*** Avoid overloading your stove or fireplace.
- ***Regularly inspect, maintain, and clean your stove/fireplace and chimney.***
- ***Watch your smoke signals!*** If you're sending up a lot of smoke, chances are you're burning incorrectly and potentially illegally. Once established, a properly burning fire should give off only a thin wisp of white steam. If you see dark smoke, adjust your dampers or air inlets to let in more air.
- ***Use EPA-certified wood-burning appliances.***



The darker or thicker the smoke, the more pollutants it contains and the more fuel is being wasted.

The Reason

Protect Your Health

Smoke from wood burning, especially from a poorly burning fire, can make our air unhealthy to breathe. Common health effects from breathing wood smoke include congestion, headaches, and itchy eyes. Inhaling wood smoke can also lead to serious long-term health problems.

Save Money

Burning clean and burning smart can save you money. Burning dry wood produces hotter, cleaner-burning fires than wet wood. Hot, clean-burning fires also prevent creosote buildup, which reduces your chimney cleaning costs and can reduce the potential for a chimney fire.

Obey the Law

Opacity. If your smoke is opaque (dark or dense), it is an indication your stove or fireplace is not burning clean. You may be wasting fuel, jeopardizing your health, and potentially breaking the law.

Burn Bans. A burn ban is a voluntary or mandatory order that restricts burning when an area's air quality is worsening and human health may be impacted. To find out about burn restrictions in your area:

- Tune in to your local radio or television station.
- Log on to DEQ's Daily Air Quality Reports Web page (www.deq.idaho.gov/air/aqindex.cfm).
- Contact your nearest DEQ regional office or city or county government.